

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claim 1-37. (Canceled)

Claim 38 (Currently amended): A padlock comprising:

a housing having a notch in a corner thereof, a wall facing said notch, a first hole and a second hole; said first and second holes both being in communication with an inside of the housing and facing in a same direction;

a shackle having a root section partly received in said housing via said first hole of said housing, and a free section extending from said root section and being disposed outside said housing; said free section being rotatable about said root section to a locked position and an unlocked position; and

a confining block including a block portion received in said notch of said housing and a stem portion received inside said housing via said second hole and extending from a bottom of said block portion; said block portion having a receptacle which is outside said housing with a first opening defined in top of said block portion and a second opening defined in a side of said block portion and in communication with said first opening; ~~said first opening being presented for receiving said free section of said shackle~~ wherein when said free section is placed in said locked position, said first opening of said receptacle receives said free section of said shackle and said free section has a distal end set at a level higher than a first level defined by a bottom surface of said receptacle and lower than a second level defined by a top surface of said housing; and said block portion together with said stem portion being rotatable with respect to said housing between a first position where said second opening faces said wall of said housing, and a second position where said second opening is turned away from said wall of said housing.

Claim 39 (Previously presented): The padlock of claim 38 further comprising a numeral wheel set disposed in said housing, wherein said numeral wheel set includes:

a shaft being parallel with said stem portion of said confining block and lying diagonally opposite to said block portion of said confining block;

a plurality of inner sleeves in parallel with one another and placed around said shaft; and

a plurality of digit-wheels each mounted around a respective one of said inner sleeves.

Claims 40-41 (Canceled)

Claim 42 (Previously presented): The padlock of claim 38, wherein said wall of said housing is substantially parallel with said root section of said shackle and is concaved toward said root section so as to form an outwardly facing concave surface corresponding to a profile of an outer surface of said block portion of said confining block.

Claim 43 (Previously presented): The padlock of claim 38 further comprising a locking mechanism disposed in said housing, wherein said locking mechanism is configured for control rotation of said confining block.